

**WØMTL — Hannibal Amateur Radio Club News — WØKEM**  
**FEBRUARY, 2010**



**HARC OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT: HOWARD BARNES, KØDFW**  
**V-PRES: LUAN SANDBERG, KC9PGS**  
**SECRETARY: FRED MILLER, KBØWIL**  
**TREASURER: TONY GILLILAND, WØPGL**  
**TRUSTEE: CLIFF AHRENS, KØCA**  
**EDITOR: BONNIE SINCLAIR, WBØWAP**

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**DUE TO THE YEARLY SCHEDULED  
 DINNER GET/TOGETHER AT GOLDEN  
 CORRAL, ON FEBRUARY 6, THE REGULAR  
 FEBRUARY SCHEDULED MEETING IS  
 CANCELED**

**February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Saturday, at 6:00 PM,** Golden Corral Restaurant, in Hannibal, Mo. Everyone is welcome, and responsible for there own meal purchase. See you there for a great time!

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Regular Meetings are held at Beth Haven Nursing Home, 2500 Pleasant St., Hannibal, Mo. Enter at the main entrance; turn left through the lounge area to the elevator. Take the elevator down

to the first floor, and go to your right/left around the corner, down the hall to the cafeteria.

**FCC VE TEST DATES FOR YEAR OF 2010**  
**Hannibal, MO ARC 2010 Exam Dates**

**April 14th, 2010, July 14th, 2010,  
 October 13th, 2010**

Exams will take place at 8:30 PM after the regular scheduled HARC meeting. The exam session will be at the Beth Haven Nursing Home, in the Cafeteria on the 1st (lower) Floor, 2500 Pleasant St., Hannibal, MO. Registration is required at least 72 hours before the exam session by contacting the team liaison, Fred Miller- KBØWIL at [kb0wil@arrl.net](mailto:kb0wil@arrl.net) or 573-221-2429.

The 2010 test fee will be unchanged at \$15.00. It goes to ARRL/VEC. Bring a photo ID (or two non-photo ID's); if currently licensed, bring the original and a photocopy of your valid FCC license; and if you are claiming credit for successful completion of an exam, bring the original and photocopy of any applicable CSCE's.

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**HARC MONDAY NIGHT NET**  
**CALL LIST OF VOLUNTEER OPERATORS**  
**FEBRUARY 2010**

1	KDØHHN	DON
8	KB9VIS	BRIAN
15	KBØWIL	FRED
22	WØAJD	JD

**THANKS TO ALL!**

## HANNIBAL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MINUTES



Minutes by: Fred-KBØWIL HARC-Secretary

Date: January 13th, 2010

Location: Beth Haven Nursing Home  
2500 Pleasant St., Hannibal, Mo.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY:  
Howie-KØDFW

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:  
November 11th, 2009  
Motion to approve: Ed-WA6JMR  
Seconded by: Mark-NØZOF

TREASURERS REPORT: Tony-WØPGL



Cash-\$752.49 CD-\$1,282.05 Total-\$2,034.54  
Motion to approve: J.D.-WØAJD  
Seconded by: Ann-KB9BAL

REPEATER REPORT: Fred-KBØWIL

The repeaters are working and sounding great,  
no problems.

HARC OFFICER NOMINATIONS.2010

We took final nominations tonight for Officers In  
2010.

CURRENT 2009 OFFICERS:

President: Howie-KØDFW, Vice President J.D.-  
WØAJD, Treasurer Tony-WØPGL, Secretary Fred-  
KBØWIL and Newsletter Editor Bonnie-WBØWAP.

HARC 2010 OFFICERS:

President-Howie-KØDFW,  
Vice President Luan-KC9PGS,  
Treasurer Tony-WØPGL,  
Secretary Fred-KBØWIL,  
Newsletter Editor-Bonnie-WBØWAP.

HARC 2009 MEMBER OF THE YEAR.  
Carol-WA9EFV

We voted tonight for the HARC 2009 member of  
the year. We had two members nominated:  
Carol-WA9EFV and Tony-WØPGL.

\*Note: Cliff-KØCA was nominated as well, and he  
declined his nomination.

They all have done several things for the club over  
the years. The club will present the award at the  
February 6th, 2010 supper/get together.  
The winner was Carol-WA9EFV, congratulations.  
Motion to approve: Kermit-KØZXQ  
Seconded by: Bill-WBØNWU  
Fred-KBØWIL is responsible for taking care of  
the award purchase and layout.

**FEBRUARY 2010 HARC SUPPER: SATURDAY,  
FEB 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2010**

We voted to have the clubs annual supper/get  
together on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Saturday, at 6:00  
PM, Golden Corral Restaurant, here in Hannibal,  
Mo. Everyone is responsible for there own meal  
purchase. Same room as previously, non-smoking  
section, up front.

Fred-KBØWIL will take care of the reservation, for  
the room.



**K9P SPECIAL EVENT:**

We voted tonight to operate K9P again this year, at the Famous Redneck Retreat. Nancy & Carol-WA9EFV graciously will let us operate there. Carol-WA9EFV will be the head honcho, after he asks Nancy for approval. The operating dates are April 30th-May 2nd. The times will be decided at a future meeting. Fred-KBØWIL will take care of acquiring the 1X1 approval, and as well listing the event in QST magazine.

Motion to approve:

Bonnie-WBØWAP

Seconded by: Ann-KB9BAL

**BREAKFAST CLUB PICNIC: 2010**

The BC picnic will be on July 16, 17, and 18th, 2010. It will be here in Hannibal Mo. Contact Carol-WA9EFV, Tony-WØPGL, or J.D-WØAJD, if your interested in attending or helping with the activities. More information will be forth-coming in future newsletters.

**QUINCY HAMFEST, AUGUST 7TH, 2010:**

The WIARC Hamfest will be on Saturday August 7th, 2010. Plan on attending and help support this great hamfest.

**REDNECK RETREAT ANNUAL PARTY  
SUNDAY AUGUST 8TH, 2010:**

The world famous get-together at the Redneck Retreat, will be held again this year. Carol will be there, but Nancy is in charge. So, if you have any important questions, please ask Nancy.

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**NOTE:** Mike -NA9Q is doing the DX column, in the club newsletter. He started in January 2010.

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**"2009" Field Day report in December QST**

HARC did extremely well in 2009 Field Day!  
1st in Missouri, in our 4A Class. 4A-Mo.

1,198 QSO's

5,042 Points.

# 24 ranking out of # 129 in the 4A class.

Page # 74, Dec QST

Fred KBØWIL E-:-)

**50/50 WINNER:**

Mel-KCØHYY was the winner tonight, and he donated the winnings back to the club. Thanks Mel, the club appreciates it.

We also gave away a Yaesu hat, donated by Oral-KBØECF. Mel-KCØHYY was also the winner of this great hat.

Number of members present: 24

Number of guests: 3

Total in attendance: 27

**VE-TESTING TONIGHT:**

We had three examinees tonight. The examiners were: Oral-KBØECF, Ed-NØNWV and VE-Liaison Fred-KBØWIL.

**VE-TESTING RESULTS:****CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

Lyle Hill- KC9QPP upgraded to a General,  
Dave Hill-KC9RFP is a Tech  
Wayne White-KC9RFO is a Tech.

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**FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK  
FEBRUARY 2010  
BY HOWARD BARNES K0DFW**

I haven't seen the sun for so long I think I forgot what it looked like. I don't think I can take much more of this fog and drizzle and no sunshine! At least, if it is foggy, it is warm, and now the arctic winds is making a come back, and snow and ice and all that good stuff!

Cliff, K0CA has been elected the new Mid



West Director for the ARRL. Way to go Cliff!  
That is going to put our little Hannibal Radio Club  
on the map with ARRL higher ups as membership!!  
That is very impressive!!

We had club elections for 2010, and we  
have a new officer for 2010. She is Luan  
KC9PGS, and her new office that she now holds is  
Vice President of the HARC. Way to go Luan!!  
I want to thank J.D. W0AJD, for holding this office  
for the last couple of years, and thank him for all  
the help that he has provided me with, and I am  
looking forward to working with Luan on club  
business!

We will have our annual club nights out at  
the Golden Corral on February 6, at 6:00 P.M.  
here in Hannibal. If you know anyone that wants  
to come that has an interest in Ham Radio, bring  
them along. This is open to anyone, so come and  
join us.

We had a good meeting the other night with  
26 people attending, and we had a lot of fun! We  
decided to have a K9P special event station April  
30 to May 2. We will be once again running this  
from the Red Neck Retreat in the notorious Pike  
County, Illinois. Carol WA9EFV, is going to be  
our host to the event, and I guarantee you, there  
will be fun to be had. Never a dull moment at the  
Red Neck Retreat!!!!

Also I have some more good news to  
announce. WA9EFV, Carol is being awarded the  
award of 'Amateur of the Year Award'. This is an  
annual award that we give to a deserving member  
for their contribution to the club, and Ham Radio in  
general. Congratulations, Carol on receiving this  
award. Everyone be sure to attend the dinner at  
the Golden Corral on February 6, and see Carol get  
his award! Be there or be square!

Well, believe it not, but we had an increase  
in sunspots, and the propagation is up and  
running. A bunch of the guys in the club have  
been working world wide contacts, and picking up  
"new ones" for their DXCC award. I only hope  
that the sunspots stay up there for awhile, and  
give everyone a chance to work some good DX.

We won't have a February meeting on our  
regular time this month. Our February meeting  
will be our dinner meeting, February 6, so don't  
show up February 10 looking for a meeting, or you  
might be there by yourself.

Collinsville, Ill. Winter fest is January 30,  
at the Exposition center, and I think a bunch of the

club members are going down, so you might want  
to go along, and see if you can find some good  
deals!

Well, I guess I had better hang it up for  
now, and get this sent to Bonnie so she can get it in  
the paper for this week. Thanks Bonnie for all the  
good work that you do for the club putting out the  
best newsletter in the state of Missouri! There is  
no doubt in my mind that this is true!!!!  
73's everyone

73s Howard K0DFW

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## DX Horizons February 2010 by Mike Nowack NA9Q



## DX Notes & News... by na9q

**News for February:** Right now, if you are not  
checking the HF bands each morning you are  
missing some good opportunities for DX. More  
often than not over the last month, mornings have  
provided decent openings into Europe and in a  
couple of instances, on into the Middle East. As an  
indicator of recent activity, countries that I have  
heard on recent mornings on 20M include 5B4, SV,  
A7, TA, along with the other more common EU  
entities such as G, F DL, PA, EA and I. This is all  
due to the increasing solar flux which has been  
steadily improving, reaching 93.3 on the 15th, a



level not seen in recent history before dropping back down into the low 80's on the 19th. The A and K indices have been up and down but on several days they were both very low and on these days several locals reported very good (quiet) conditions on 160M and 80M. Danny NG9R reported very favorable 160M noise levels on the 18<sup>th</sup> local. Darell, N9DT reported strong European signals on 160M on the evening of the 19<sup>th</sup> local. This is indeed the time of year to add to your low band 160, 80 and 40 Meter totals.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> Arlyce, NB9Q found John, VK7XX from Tasmania on 20M long path in the middle of our afternoon with a true 20 dB over S9 signal. She found another VK up the band about 7 kHz also working stateside stations. We have not heard such strong long path signals out of the South Pacific for quite some time. For the next few weeks it may pay to keep an ear open for these afternoon openings, as when they happen it can be interesting with deep pacific stations such as VK, ZL, 9M, DU, etc. coming in via long path over Europe.

**CE0, Juan Fernandez** – JA8BMK should now be active as CE0ZA until Feb 2 160-10M on SSB/CW/Digital modes. QSL direct to the home call.

**CN, Morocco** – MJ0ASP will be active Feb 18-31 as CN2MR, mostly CW. QSL direct to the home call.

**3C0, Annobon Is.** – CW/SSB/Digital activity by EA5BYP and EA5KM in April with calls and QSL info to be announced.

**7Q, Malawi** – Harry 7Q7HB will be active on CW and digital modes for the next three months. QSL direct to G0IAS only.

**E5, No Cook Is.** – E51WWB from Manihiki from 3-15 Feb on CW/SSB/Digital 40M-15M. QSL to home call, AD7AF.

**JD1, Marcus Is.** – If you need this one you might want to make a concerted effort to work JD1BMM which will be active until mid-Feb. Op JA6GXK reports the JA military station there will close down in Dec and the club station in February. JD1 may be rare in the future as a result. QSL direct via the QRZ.com address.

**Cocos-Keeling Is.** – NL8F will be active as VK9COF or VK9C/NL8F with activity in the ARRL DX Phone Test March 3-10. QSL to K8NA.

**So. Cook Is.** – Tim NL8F will follow Cocos Keeling with a stop in Roratonga as E51COF March 20-30 QSL to K8NA.

**SV/A, Mt Athos** – More info on activity by Monk Apollo. He is being plagued by pirate operators who come on following his active on-air periods. He has now begun to operate more RTTY as this mode disturbs the other residents of the monastery less. Look for him around 1700Z - 2100Z on 160M, 80M 40M and 30M. But beware the pirates!

**6W, Senegal/J5UAP Guinea-Bissau** – Peter is active as 6W2SC and J5UAP at the border between the two countries. Activity until the end of March mainly on the digital modes, 160-10M. QSL both to home call, HA3AUI.

**February Notes:** Last month I began a discussion of some of the issues the DXer faces in QSLing direct or to a foreign manager. As a follow up to the return postage issue, I found an interesting resource which gives some very good guidance on the cost of postage to send a single unit of mail back to the US from various foreign countries. Go to [www.k4hb.com/postage.html](http://www.k4hb.com/postage.html). The site gives the postage rates to the USA for the most common foreign countries. A good guide when deciding how many green stamps to put into the envelope with your card and sae. You need to send enough but you don't want to waste money. QSLing is expensive enough.

This month I would like to continue with some suggestions on your QSL card design. A QSL card is a personal item, the design of which reflects an ops' individuality. However, the DXer must be careful that card design doesn't get in the way of receiving a return card from that rare DX station. First and foremost, use a standard card size, approximately 3.5" by 5.5" but no larger than 4" by 6". Odd sizes or unusual media only complicate things for everyone. Especially true when a special envelope size is required as a result of the odd card size. We all have received QSL cards of varying design. Some, really nice cards, and some rather plain Jane, or weird. I even received one once printed on a slab of wood! Nice, but not practical. However, the fancier, or more unusual the card, the greater the expense. Attractive, full color, custom picture cards are nice, but can be very expensive. Alternatively, a plain single sided card in one ink color on nice contrasting stock can be had for a



couple pennies each, and can be more effective in getting a QSL from the foreign station. The thing to remember is that a foreign station, or a QSL manager who handles hundreds or thousands of cards has already seen every card design that you could possibly come up with, and he isn't interested in what you or your dog looks like. What he is looking for, is for you to make it easy and fast for him to process your request for a card. In most cases, the foreign ham or manager prefers a card with everything clearly presented on one side; your call, your location and address as well as the contact info. Having to flip the card over and back a time or two to get all your info only adds to his work. Save your fancy two sided card with the color picture for your more special contacts where it is more likely to be appreciated and the dog adored. This is especially true when QSLing to a manager as the actual DX station will likely never see your card anyway.

Besides sloppy handwriting, the most common error that gets in the way of getting a confirmation back is confusion on the date and or time of the contact. Always use the 24 hour GMT clock (i.e. 1234Z) to log your contacts and use the date format dd/mm/yyyy. While we Americans tend to use mm/dd/yyyy, we are universally out of sync with the rest of the world on this issue. If you logged a contact on July 4, 2009 and send a card with the date formatted 07/04/2009, the foreign station will read that as 7 April 2009 and will likely return your card with the feared 'Not in the log!' notation even though you had a good contact. The DX op faced with hundreds of incoming cards isn't likely to spend time searching his log looking for your call if your date or time formats don't match.

Good hunting on the bands... and remember the first rule of DX; always listen, listen, listen before calling.

Thanks to the ARRL DX Bulletins, the OPDX Bulletin and the 425DXN Bulletin for some of the information above.

73, and good DX, Mike, NA9Q

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### **CONGRATULATIONS CLIFF!**

Please join me in congratulating HARC member Cliff Ahrens, K0CA, on his elevation to ARRL Director, Midwest Division.

Details of the changes that took place at the ARRL Officer level which resulted in Cliff being named Midwest Director may be found on the ARRL web page here:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2010/01/16/11292/?nc=1>

Congratulations Cliff!

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### **RECENT 'SILENT KEYS' OF HARC CLUB MEMBERS**

**LAWRENCE SCHUERMANN, KB9MOM** passed away 1/20/2010.

**GENE AFFOLTER, WB0SEN**, passed away at 3am, Tues. morning, January 26, 2010. He was a great HAM, and will be missed by all that knew him. He is survived by his wife, Wanda.

Services will be held at 11:00 a.m. Thursday, January 28, 2010, at Bramley Funeral Home, Auburn, Illinois with Rev. Brian Hay officiating. Burial in Auburn, Illinois Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Auburn, IL Emergency Squad.

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### **Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club Amateur Radio License Class Scheduled for January 2010**

The Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club will be holding a license class on Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9 PM beginning January 5, 2010. There will be 10 sessions including the official exam which is scheduled for Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. The club is planning two separate classes. The first is the entry level leading to the Technician license and the

second is an upgrade class leading to the General or Extra license. Both classes will be held simultaneously at the consulting engineering firm of Poepping Stone Bach Assoc (PSBA) which is located at 100 S. 54<sup>th</sup> St. in Quincy about ½ mile south of Home Depot.

The class leading to the Technician license will consist of lecture and demonstrations as well as Q&A. The text is "The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, 3<sup>rd</sup> Printing." A copy of this book will be available at the first session or ahead of time at the special price of \$20. Call Todd, AB9QW, at 217-593-7490 or email at [toddc@psba.com](mailto:toddc@psba.com) to reserve a copy.

The class leading to the General or Extra license will be in Q&A format. Using the available high speed internet connection, it will be possible to try sample tests on-line using the instructor's laptop computer. The text for the General License is: "The ARRL General Class License Manual for Ham Radio, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition." For the Extra License, the text is: "The ARRL Extra Class License Manual for Ham Radio, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition. The special price for either manual is \$20. Contact Todd, AB9QW, to reserve a copy.

All of those with interest from the Hannibal area are invited to attend.

**HARC members are asked to mention the course to friends and neighbors. A flyer describing the course and providing a map is available at the WIARC website: go to [www.w9awe.org](http://www.w9awe.org). At the home page, click on "Introductory License Classes Begin January 5<sup>th</sup>...."**

#### **\*Interesting Facts: Hurricane Names for 2010**

The names chosen for 2010 hurricanes are Alex, Bonnie, Colin, Danielle, Earl, Fiona, Gaston, Hermine, Igor, Julia, Karl, Lisa, Matthew, Nicole, Otto, Paula, Richard, Shary, Thomas, Virginie and Walter.

In the event that more than 21 named tropical cyclones occur in the Atlantic basin in a season, additional storms will take names from the Greek alphabet: Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta and so on.

*\*Copied from article in ARRL January 2010 Newsletter  
By ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA*

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#### **FOR SALE:**

Here are some items that a local HAM has for sale, see his ad below:

Telex 14 element 2 meter beam. Real nice shape. \$80

Astron 13 amp Power Supply. Nice condition. \$40

Heathkit 6 Position Antenna Switch. \$25

Heathkit HW-101 Complete rig \$250

Swan 350 Transceiver with Power Supply . NOT WORKING . \$50

Swan 140 Transceiver . \$25

The Heathkit HW-101 is in great working order and has been modified for better receive and transmit . It puts out 110 watts. It comes with the power supply and SB-600 speaker and D104 microphone . \$250

E-mail [rijo@mywdo.com](mailto:rijo@mywdo.com)

I don't have a phone . Thanks , KC0UZK, Rick

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Website: <http://www.w0kem.com>

